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A LITTLE TALK.

Our little friends are engaged in earnest talk, and from their looks we may suppose them to be intimate friends "telling secrets."

Very soberly Laura tells her story, and Emma is full of interest in every word that is spoken, and is also ready to give her opinion of the matter as soon as the tale is finished. I hope it is something good that Laura has to tell. It must be, for both look like good little girls.

I have met with little folks who want to repeat everything they hear; and when they are not talking about somebody they are listening to all that may be said, hoping to find something to tell. I hope there are none of these among my little readers, for don't you know that such talkers are the most uncomfortable people in this world. It is all

right for Emma and Laura to tell one another of all their plans and pleasures, and also their little trials and troubles. But suppose they begin to talk about May or Julia, or somebody else who is not present to hear it; then a little troubler



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comes right into both their hearts, and changes their harmless conversation into that commonly known as gossip, which nearly always ends in evil speaking.

Perhaps the safest rule for every one of us to follow will be never to talk about

absent persons, or if we must speak of them let it be nothing but good. But if your friends want to tell you a story about somebody, unless you are sure it is something good tell them that you cannot afford to listen.

PLEASANT THOUGHTS.

We may make ourselves nests of kind or pleasant thoughts. None of us yet know, for we have not been taught in our early youth, what fairy palaces we may build of beautiful thoughts, proof against all adversity—bright fancies, satisfied memories, noble histories, faithful sayings—treasure-houses of restful and pleasant thoughts, which care cannot disturb, nor pain make dismal, nor poverty take away from us, houses built without hands, for our souls to live in.

The Lord loves the youth. He sees in them great possibilities, and is ready to help them to reach a high standard, if they will only realize the need of his help and lay a foundation of character that cannot be moved.